

AUSTIN-TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

ATC COVID-19 Response Executive Situation Report #208



Published: December 9, 2020

Report Operational Period	Incident Type	Report Type
December 9 – December 16, 2020	Pandemic	Incident / Event - Initial / Update / Final

*Updated Actions in Blue Font *

WEATHER FORECAST

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 81. West northwest wind around 5 mph becoming south in the afternoon. Tonight mostly clear, with a low around 46. South wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

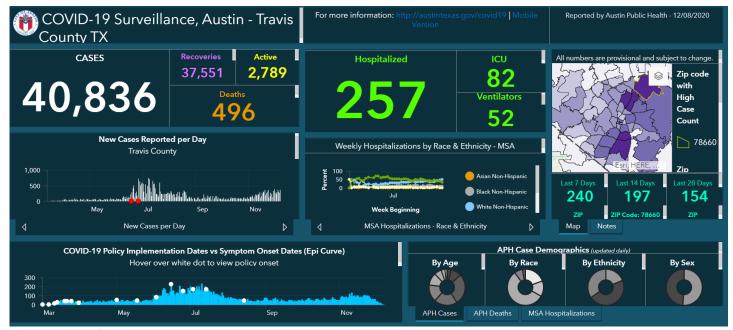
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 77. Light south southwest wind becoming south 10 to 15 mph in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph. Thursday night a 20 percent chance of showers after midnight. Increasing clouds, with a low around 59. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday: Showers likely, with thunderstorms also possible after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 73. South southwest wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. Friday night mostly clear, with a low around 47. South southwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

SITUATION SUMMARY

- Significant outreach and attention are devoted to priority populations with focus on equity.
- APH and COVID Testing Group continue working to ensure a holistic and equitable approach to testing by developing specific goals, strategies, and tactics.

APH TRAVIS COUNTY COVID-19 PUBLIC DASHBOARD:



Additional information on demographics available on the dashboard at: https://www.austintexas.gov/covid19

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MODELING:

The University of Texas COVID-19 Modeling Consortium

AUSTIN PUBLIC HEALTH CURRENT RISK-BASED STAGE:



Additional information on APH's risk-based guidelines may be found at: https://www.austintexas.gov/page/covid-19-risk-based-guidelines

Texas Department of State Health and Human Services Cumulative Testing Data:

DAILY CHANGE (for period of preceding 1 day)

County	Total Tests as of	Total Cases as of				
	12/7/20	12/8/20				
Travis	538,787 +4,474 one-day change	40,481 +272 one-day change				
Williamson	215,566 +1,929 one-day change	14,533 +521 one-day change				
Hays	116,967 +628 one-day change	7,812 +168 one-day change				
Bastrop	29,103 +256 one-day change	2,537 +9 one-day change				
Caldwell	15,595 +103 one-day change	1,947 +4 one-day change				
Five-County Totals	916,018 +7,390 one-day change	67,310 +974 one-day change				

WEEKLY CHANGE (for period of preceding 7 days)

County	Total Tests as of		Total C	ases as	s of
	12/7/20		12/8/20		
Travis	538,787 +31,357	one-week change	40,481	+1,724	one-week change
Williamson	215,566 +11,876	one-week change	14,533	+1,018	one-week change
Hays	116,967 +5,941	one-week change	7,812	+383	one-week change
Bastrop	29,103 +1,747	one-week change	2,537	+138	one-week change
Caldwell	15,595 +1,117				one-week change
Five-County Totals	916,018 +52,038	one-week change	67,310	+3,325	one-week change

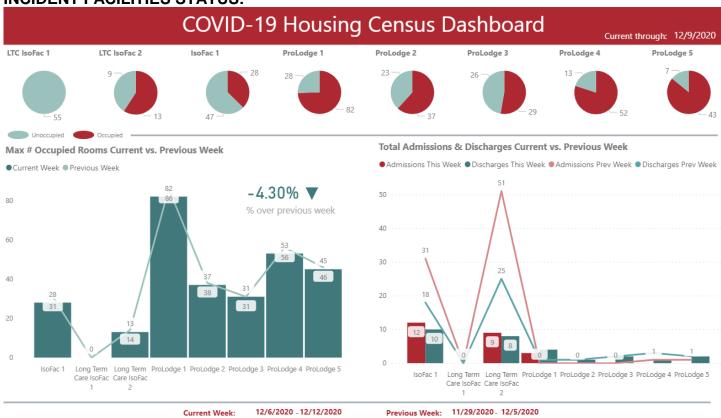
Data located at: https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CORRECTIONS: Aggregate detention statistics reported for the operational period of **December 9, 2020**:

Category	Number*	
Daily Population	1,845	
Bookings	69	
Tested	1,136 cumulative	
Positive	0	
Isolation	262	
Quarantine	22	

^{*}People in isolation is the number of people brought into booking--these individuals are isolated for two weeks prior to going into the general population. Quarantine criteria: person is showing symptoms, answered yes to a COVID-19 booking question, or refuses to answer the COVID-19 questions.

INCIDENT FACILITIES STATUS:



ONGOING STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION:

- Federal, State, and Local (Austin and Travis County) disasters have been declared, including the surrounding communities of Rollingwood, Manor, Pflugerville, Lakeway, Volente, Cedar Park, Sunset Valley, Village of Point Venture, Jonestown, and the Village of Webberville.
- 2 As of December 9, 2020, The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is reporting a total of 1,272,504 cases of COVID-19 in the State of Texas which includes an estimated 203,203 active cases, 1,050,416 individuals have recovered from the virus and 22,808 confirmed COVID-19 related fatalities. Across Texas, a total of 11,528,595 COVID-19 molecular tests have been completed.
- 3. On December 8, 2020 The Centers for Disease Control issued updated guidance on close contact exposure to COVID-19 and quarantining. (LINK)
- 4. On November 23, 2020 Governor Abbott and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) announced the guiding principles for Texas' COVID-19 vaccine allocation process, which will serve as a foundation for the state's initial distribution for COVID-19 vaccines expected as early as next month. These principles have been established by the Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel (EVAP), created by DSHS to make recommendations on vaccine allocation decisions, including identifying groups that should be vaccinated first to provide the most protection to vulnerable populations and critical state resources. Texas will initially allocate COVID-19 vaccines based on the following criteria:
 - Protecting health care workers who fill a critical role in caring for and preserving the lives of COVID-19 patients and maintaining the health care infrastructure for all who need it.
 - Protecting frontline workers who are at greater risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of their work providing critical services and preserving the economy.
 - Protecting vulnerable populations who are at greater risk of severe disease and death if they contract COVID-19.
 - Mitigating health inequities due to factors such as demographics, poverty, insurance status and geography.
 - Data-driven allocations using the best available scientific evidence and epidemiology at the time, allowing for flexibility for local conditions.
 - Geographic diversity through a balanced approach that considers access in urban and rural communities and in affected ZIP codes.
 - Transparency through sharing allocations with the public and seeking public feedback.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CURRENT ACTIONS

COMMAND: Working to stay ahead of the new wave of COVID-19 cases due to the holiday season through strong messaging and guidance on holiday gatherings. Completing demobilization of retired facilities and working on projection of demobilization of other future facilities.

OPERATIONS: Continue to support APH operations, responded to incident reports at ProLodges/IsoFac, and working with testing group to streamline current resource requests procedures. Plan accordingly for staffing and during the holidays. A two week IAP will be implemented for the weeks of December 19, 2020 – January 2, 2020.

PLANNING: Plans also created a COVID-19 events calendar on Teams for visibility on upcoming PPE distribution, flu shot distribution, and other related events. GISERT updated COVID-19 Facilities maps to indicate new IsoFac location. A two week IAP will be implemented for the weeks of December 19, 2020 – January 2, 2020.

LOGISTICS: Continue to support facilities and activities.

PIO: On December 9, 2020 Austin Public Health had their weekly media event at 10:00AM-11:00AM on ATXN.TV. Working on current holiday messaging along with guidance updates to quarantining. The digital social media team has updated a map of the physical locations of COVID-19 testing sites and vaccine distribution information is currently in the works.

SAFETY: Continue best practices regarding face coverings, social distancing, and hand sanitization. Observe a minimum social distance of 6 feet and avoid standing over people during conversations to prevent accidental droplet spread. Report workplace incidents using the Incident Reporting option in the 214 Activity Log. All workplace injuries must also be reported to your supervisor and to home-based Human Resources as soon as possible by completing the DWC-1 form. Created Portable Propane Heater Safety Guidelines handout. Continue communicating Propane Heater Safety message. Ensuring testing sites have proper equipment and PPE for propane heaters

EQUITY: Continuing to work across branches and community groups to elevate concerns for our most directly impacted communities. Continuing efforts to support the health equity team in social services.

FINANCE: The Travis County departments cumulative cost as of December 9, 2020 is \$23,126,871 the daily burn rate is \$81,720. The City of Austin cumulative cost as of December 9, 2020 is \$192,157,137; the daily burn rate is \$679,000 with the burn rate for Public Assistance at \$60,647,747. Providing guidance on cost recovery efforts on tracking and documenting force account labor, equipment, materials and

supplies, contracts, and donated resources. COA function codes have been set up to track costs for each site or mission.

ESTIMATED COVID-19 DISASTER COSTS as of December 9, 2020*:

JURISDICTION	DOLLAR AMOUNT
TRAVIS COUNTY	\$23,126,871
CITY OF AUSTIN	\$192,157,137

^{*}Updated Wednesdays

PUBLIC SAFETY BRANCH

AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT: Ensuring security requirements are maintained at the testing sites, ProLodges and Isolation Facilities. Continued to ensure APD personnel safety through testing, isolation and quarantine. Monitoring APD officers who contracted COVID-19; ensuring officers have access to medical and worker compensation needs. Coordinating with APH in providing traffic, security and flu vaccine events for PPE distribution sites. Tracking possible COVID-19 exposure from recent APD responses. Assessing the needs to APH for possible reallocation of ProLodges. Assisted in cold weather operations on December 1, 2020.

AUSTIN FIRE DEPARTMENT: Continue mission focus and maintain communication among groups within the Public Safety Branch. Share agency specific information for situational awareness.

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE: Provide law enforcement security and support for fatality management planning, testing sites & food banks, and distribution events; continue enhanced screening and testing within the corrections setting, working in partnership with APH; employ isolation measures to mitigate COVID-19 impacts; distribute PPE to staff and the jail population; monitor PPE supply. Preparing for cold weather season operations and sheltering. Continue to maintain safety and security of jail facility while managing increased community spread of COVID-19.

PUBLIC HEALTH & MEDICAL BRANCH

AUSTIN PUBLIC HEALTH: Austin Public Health is maintaining testing, IsoFac, ACS, LTCF, epi response, and call center operations. Vaccine planning continues. Supporting school based COVID-19 testing as well as maintaining all other response operations.

TESTING GROUP December 8, 2020

Location		Schedule		
			Daily	
St. Johns (ASJ)	Tu-Sa	9:00AM - 2:00PM	537	
Pleasant Valley	M-Sa	8:00AM - 9:00AM	32	
Southeast Library (ASE)	M,F,Sa	8:00AM - 1:00PM	CLOSED TUESDAY	
	W	3:00PM - 7:00PM		
Little Walnut Creek Library	M,F,Sa	8:00AM - 1:00PM	CLOSED TUESDAY	
(ALW)	W	3:00PM - 7:00PM		
Givens Park	M,F,Sa	8:00AM - 1:00PM	CLOSED TUESDAY	
	W	3:00PM - 7:00PM		
Montopolis	Tu	8:00AM - 1:00PM	141	
	Th	3:00PM - 7:00PM		
	Sa	4:00PM - 7:00PM		
Ana Lark Center	Tu, Th, Sa	9:00AM - 2:00PM	136	
	W	2:00PM - 7:00PM		
Downtown Pflugerville	M,W,F, Sa	7:00AM - 1:00PM	426	
	Tu, Th	1:00PM - 6:00PM		
Home Testing	By Appointment	By Appointment (M-F)		
Facilities Testing	By Appointment	By Appointment		

			November					Dose	mber		
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Nov Total		Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Dec Total
	31st-6th	7th-13th	14th-20th	21st-28th		29th-4th	5th-11th	12th-18th	19th-25th	26th-1st	
Community	12462	13919	15118	12594	54093	10713					10713
Static	2920	3513	6174	6468	19075	5046					5046
St. Johns	1058	1389	1920	1747	6114	1855					1855
Pleasant Valley	46	81	78	89	294	87					87
Givens	209	187	523	498	1417	206					206
SE Library	348	290	726	765	2129	541					541
Little Walnut Creek	233	184	599	805	1821	416					416
Montopolis	113	276	446	443	1278	270					270
Pflugerville	913	1106	1882	2121	6022	1671					1671
Mobile	270	544	707	695	2216	537					537
Home Testing	35	46	58	29	168	78					78
Pop Up	235	498	649	666	2048	459					459
Facilities	2	3	5	2	12	3					3
Testing Group Comp	3192	4060	6886	7165	21303	5586					
Total Completed	15654	17979	22004	19759	75396	16299					16299

COVID TESTING GROUP: Static Test Site Updates: The total capacity for testing provided by the city per week is currently 11,000 people. Reference the COVID-19 Testing Holiday Calendar for date closures and make-ups during the holiday season. The COVID-19 Testing Group is currently developing a testing strategy for rapid antigen tests to be utilized in selected Title I schools through a partnership with the Texas Division of Emergency Management. This strategy will fall under home testing with an expected start date of December 7, 2020. Facilities Testing: No major updates. Texas Allied Health (CTAHI) will continue testing at The Lark through the end of December, 2020.

ISOFAC: Intake, discharge, and care of guests maximize the number of available rooms including repairs. Implement Maximo in supply logistics section. Working to ready rooms for occupancy. Identify a process and location to discharge or refer guests that exceed the care capabilities of the IsoFac. Partnered with Fairfield Inn and successfully moved the IsoFac from Crowne Plaza. Establish a process to verify guest identity at intake, to include guest photo. Continuing to modify work flow processes to accommodate needs at the new IsoFac location.

LONG TERM CARE: Cases in LTCFs are rising and so is need for stop-gap PPE supplies. Weekly all LTCF meetings to share guidance and garner input from LTCFs occurred December 1, 2020. Preparing for a PPE distribution event on December 12, 2020 for approximately 2,000 LTCF staff. Integration of LTCFs into the Salesforce system is still occurring slowly. The current active LTC Isolation Facility remains at or near capacity. The Incident Management Team (IMT) is communicating with other facilities to re-open their COVID-19 wings for admissions, possibly as early as December 7, 2020. Continuing to talk with LTCFs about preparations for potential COVID-19 case increases. IMT is serving as liaison between LTCFs and vaccine collaborative group to communicate information on potential vaccine distribution. The LTCF IsoFac in Round Rock Hearthstone Facility is now open as of December 8, 2020, with a capacity of 30.

ALTERNATIVE CARE SITE: Continuing to complete HIPAA compliance binder and the acquisition of a HIPAA compliance officer. Continue status in a ready warm state with preparation of moving to store to surge.

SOCIAL SERVICES BRANCH

GROUP HOMES TASK FORCE: Integral Care Nursing staff screening and testing for COVID-19 in collaboration with APH to curb spread among congregate care living situations. Integral Care Nursing staff identify and provide Fit Testing for N-95 masks for congregate care settings that are isolating on site and the staff at the community testing sites. Ensure level 3 PPE is distributed to Group Homes with a focus on the board and care and IDD locations. Improve education and response by the Group Homes to COVID-19. Integral Care Nursing Team continues to monitor the increase in positives in congregate group home care and residential settings and continues to be ready for an increase in testing requests.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TASK FORCE: Continue the twice weekly Behavioral Health collaborative meeting with ProLodge, IsoFac, COA, Integral Care, and the Behavioral Health Task Force to monitor, discuss and enhance cross-system functioning. Identify and resolve unmet behavioral health needs. Front Steps staff provided praise and positive feedback for the de-escalation training provided by Integral Care. IsoFac Command Staff and Behavioral Health Task Force ability to work effectively and efficiently to address service gaps. Continue to follow-up with next steps/actions from the 11/19/2020 meeting regarding these 3 topics: 1) staffing at IsoFac for 0-11 unaccompanied minor; 2) develop a plan for individuals who require isolation but whose acuity is too high to be managed at the IsoFac and subsequently discharged to the ProLodges - for people experiencing homelessness: 3) funding for behavioral health support at the IsoFac post December 31, 2020; Facilitating a meeting on December 9, 2020 at 2:00PM to identify potential pathways for guests at the ProLodges with high acuity levels to be discharged into assisted living facilities. Coordinating with long-term care task group and Integral Care to arrange a planning meeting for mental health support for front-line workers at nursing homes.

FOOD ACCESS TASK FORCE: Working to identify and communicate any information about Winter / Christmas Holiday Meals. At present, it does not seem that there are many options available. Delivered PPE to Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center. Connected Central Texas Food Bank to Ana Ureta to explore the possibility of using the COA's Home Depot parking lot in the St. John's neighborhood on Thursdays or Saturdays for mass food distribution sites when not being used for COVID-19 testing; Created and printed a simple flyer with QR code that directs people to 2-1-1 and Connectatx.org resources as well as a direct link to the food resources map. We will be working to identify and communicate any information about Winter / Christmas Holiday Meals. We are merging the EAT partner call with the 9:00AM full food access coordination call.

CHILD CARE/SCHOOLS GROUP: Assisted Economic Development with developing SAVES Child Care Relief Grant Statement of Work, Guidelines, and Webinar Content. Provided in-home rapid antigen testing for on-campus AISD students and staff who attend/work at Title I schools located in hotspot areas and have symptoms of COVID-19. APH met with TEA to discuss guidance to schools around length of quarantine. Distributed survey about vaccines from the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Coalition to schools and child care partner providers that are participating in weekly calls. Create screen-time tips for young children in collaboration with Austin Public Television, Success by 6 Coalition and the Austin Chapter of Texas Association for the Education of Young Children. Updated post and distribute updates to APH guidance on how long to quarantine to schools and childcare providers. Updated post and distribute school and childcare guidance documents and informational fliers with APH guidance on length of quarantine. Distribute and post screen-time tips and Austin Public Library video resources for young children to childcare providers.

HEALTH EQUITY GROUP: Completed an APH PPE event at Mendez Middle School on December 5, 2020 serving approximately 300 families.

SENIORS TASK FORCE: Continues to support the Austin Social Task Force with their initiative to reduce social isolation and APL with new initiative to provide technology loaner devices to older adults (laptops, tablets and hot spots). Supporting the COVID-19 Vaccine Coalition by sharing vaccine-related information with providers serving older adults.

FOCUSED OUTREACH FAITH-BASED TASK FORCE: The KAZI 88.7FM "Health Talk" for Tuesday, December 8, 2020, had three guests. Jeneice Hall, Health Program Coordinator, with Austin Public Health discussed the 2021 Health Living Mini-Grant. Mini-grants up to \$2,500 will be awarded to eligible organizations with a health focus on making a lasting change. Sarah Rodriguez and Anu Kandimalla discussed City of Austin Homeless' dashboard, goals, and the current research phase.

FOCUSED OUTREACH ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER TASK FORCE: The API FB Live Event has been added to the EOC calendar. The Asian Pacific Islander (API) Task Force for COVID-19 Response would like to invite you to join us on Friday, December 11, 2020 at 10:00AM for another episode of My API Live. Simultaneous Burmese, Vietnamese and Mandarin interpretation will be available.

FOCUSED OUTREACH BLACK/AFRICAN DIASPORA TASK FORCE: Connected with the City Commission on Immigrant Affairs in regard to Health Equity's Black African Diaspora Task Force and COVID-19 related support for our Black immigrant and refugee communities.

FOCUSED OUTREACH HISPANIC/LATINX TASK FORCE: The December 7, 2020 Monday Night Community Discussion took place regarding priority populations and community engagement regarding vaccine distribution.

HOMELESSNESS GROUP: Secured viable site for downtown shower trailer(s), Finalized payments to portable toilet/hand wash station vendor to enable switch to new, lower-cost vendor. Decommissioning of ProLodge 3 in progress. Progress made in finding viable site at Palm Park for mobile shower trailer. Starting permit process with Austin Water for Palm Park Site for mobile shower trailer. Extending EATS use of the Palmer Events Center passed for December 20, 2020. Getting two mobile shower trailers repaired with the newly fabricated parts made.

PROLODGE GROUP: Provide basic needs and monitor health and well-being of guests at ProLodges. Continue implementation of ProLodge Participant Agreement elements for guests to maintain ProLodge placement. Implement decommission plan for ProLodge3, including transferring all remaining guest to ProLodge1 by December 18, 2020. Finalized revised ProLodge decommission/consolidation plan. Work with APD to monitor ProLodge guests entering the property. Performing weekly room assessments at each ProLodge. Working with Behavioral Health task force to identify long term solutions for ProLodge guests whose needs exceed the level of care available at the ProLodges.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PPE Events:

December 12, 2020 Delco Activity Center at 9:00AM-1:00PM.





COVID-19 Testing Holiday Calendar 2020-2021



DECEMBER	Thursday 12/24/2020	Friday 12/25/2020	Saturday 12/26/2020	Thursday 12/31/2020	Friday 1/1/2021
TEST LOCATION	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Day After Christmas	New Year's Eve	New Year's Day
St. Johns					
Pleasant Valley					
Southeast Library					
Little Walnut Creek					
Givens Park					
Little Montopolis					
Ana Lark Center					
Downtown Pflugerville					
Home Testing					
Facilities Testing					

